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# Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SS-15 SP-02
PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /036 W
----------032121Z 060988 /64
P 032012Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1883

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5169

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE, SNAR, CO
SUBJ: MODE - DEA STAFFING

REF: STATE 127684

1. IT HAS BEEN MY UNDERSTANDING THAT DEPT, PARTICULARLY S/NM, HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS IN COLOMBIA AND THAT RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS WILL BE BASED ON THIS. THE PLANNED VISIT OF MS. FLACO AND DR. BOURNE IS, I BELIEVE, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THAT REVIEW AND, AS DEPT IS AWARE, USG ACTION ON THE PROVISION OF HELICOPTERS TO THE GOC HAS BEEN HELD UP BY WASHINGTON PENDING THEIR VISIT ANF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR MEETINGS WITH TOP GOC OFFICIALS.

2. ONE MONTH AGO WE WERE INFORMED BY THE DEPT THAT WE WOULD BE RECEIVING AN OUTLINE OF THE POINTS MS. FALCO INTENDS TO COVER HERE (STATE 104488). WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THAT OUTLINE BUT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DERIVE FROM INFORMAL CONTACTS A GENERAL IDEA OF THE APPROACH MS. FALCO INTENDS TO TAKE. AND, AS A RESULT, I THINK IT CLEAR THAT HER CONVERSATIONS WITH GOC OFFICIALS COULD HAVE A VERY FAR-REACHING IMPACT ON OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL OPERATIONS HERE. AMONG OTHER
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THINGS, IT COULD AFFECT THE GOC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DEA PRESENCE IN THIS COUNTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE USG CALLS OFF THE HELICOPTER AGREEMENT AND THUS REDUCES OUR LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GOC IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION AND RECRIMINATION, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT THE GOC WOULD AT THE SAME TIME COUNTENANCE AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DEA AGENTS

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HERE AND ALLOW THEM TO OPERATE EVEN MORE WIDELY THAN
BEFORE WITHIN COLOMBIA.

3. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS CORRELATION BETWEEN (A)
THE NATURE OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND (B) OUR
STAFFING LEVELS SHOULD ALSO BE IN THE MINDS OF USG
OFFICIALS, HERE AND IN WASHINGTON, WHO ARE CONCERNED
WITH THE PROGRAM. IF THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN DEA
STAFFING REFLECTS SOME RECENT WASHINGTON POLICY DECISION
TO GO AHEAD WITH OUR PRESENT PROGRAMS, WE HERE
SHOULD BE SO INFORMED. HOWEVER, IF NO DECISION HAS
YET BEEN REACHED ON WHAT AND ON HOW MUCH WE SHOULD BE
DOING HERE IN NARCOTICS CONTROL, THEN I THINK IT ONLY
SENSIBLE TO DEFER STAFFING INCREASES UNTIL WE CAN SEE
OUR WAY AHEAD MORE CLEARLY.
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# Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**
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